

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE:LM  
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN, JR.  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010392

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS:PFOR, KS, KN, UK, UN  
SUBJECT:UK RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 1897; (B) LONDON 347.

1. BRITISH EMBOFFS SAMUEL AND PIKE CALLED ON GLEYSTEEEN  
JANUARY 14. PURPOSE WAS TO INFORM HIM OF POSSIBILITY EARLY  
HMG ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT NORTH KOREA MEETS REQUIREMENTS FOR  
RECOGNITION. SAMUEL ALSO WISHED TO GET OUR FURTHER  
REACTIONS RE SECURITY COUNCIL PROPOSAL (REF A).

2. SAMUEL SAID THAT WITH OPENING OF PARLIAMENT IT POSSIBLE  
THAT THERE WILL BE EARLY QUESTION REGARDING RECOGNITION OF  
NORTH KOREA. AS INDICATED TO US EARLIER, HMG WOULD HAVE NO  
ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NORTH KOREA MEETS  
REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION AND THAT IT LEGAL VIEW THAT  
SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WOULD IN ITSELF CONSTITUTE  
RECOGNITION.

3. SAMUEL SAID THAT EARLIER BRITISH SUGGESTION RE SECURITY  
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COUNCIL MEETING ON KOREA HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO GIVE HMG A

PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE FOR DELAYING ITS TAKING POSITION ON RECOGNITION. HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO OUR VIEWS, THE CONCERNED BRITISH DIPLOMATIC POSTS HAD BEEN UNENTHUSIASTIC. BRITISH EMBASSY IN PEKING HAD POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED WITH CHINESE AND UKUN THOUGHT ONLY FEASIBLE APPROACH MIGHT BE IF U.S. AND ROKG TOOK INITIATIVE TOWARDS SECURITY COUNCIL IN UNILATERALLY TERMINATING THE UNC. HOWEVER, SAMUEL SAID UKUN WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO BENEFITS OF EVEN THIS COURSE.

4. ACCORDING SAMUEL, FONOFF WOULD LIKE TO DEFER RECOGNITION, AND HAD HOPED WE MIGHT GIVE THEM SOME VALID REASON FOR DOING SO.

5. GLEYSTEN TOLD SAMUEL THAT WE WOULD RESPOND MORE FORMALLY, BUT OUR ORIGINAL REACTION TO UK REMAINS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF KOREA, BUT IN PRESENT SITUATION WE SEE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS FOR PROCEEDING. THESE INCLUDE PRC OPPOSITION TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE AS WELL AS OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

6. ON QUESTION BRITISH RECOGNITION NORTH KOREA, GLEYSTEN POINTED OUT THAT HMG WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO MAKE ITS OWN DECISION, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PREFER DELAY. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PROBLEM IS ONE OF RECIPROCITY. AS BRITISH AWARE, ROKG IS CONCERNED THAT ITS FRIENDS ARE MAKING MOVES TOWARDS NORTH KOREA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THERE IS NO EQUIVALENT GESTURE BY NORTH KOREA'S ALLIES TOWARDS THE SOUTH. ROKG FEARS THAT IN LONGER TERM ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION IS BEING ERODED AND WE SHARE THAT CONCERN. AT A MINIMUM, WE WOULD HOPE THAT BEFORE BRITISH DO TAKE ANY PUBLIC POSITION IN RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA THEY WILL CONSULT WITH ROKG AND ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN THEIR JUSTIFICATION. HE AND SAMUEL AGREED ROKG REACTION WOULD PROBABLY BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE.

7. GLEYSTEN SAID THAT WE COULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING JUSTIFICATION FOR BRITISH DELAY IN  
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RECOGNIZING NORTH KOREA. HOWEVER,

-- IT WOULD STRIKE US THAT HMG POSITION DEFERRING RECOGNITION ON GROUNDS THAT THE WHOLE MATTER OF THE UNC AND THE TWO KOREAS IS STILL ACTIVELY BEFORE THE UN WOULD BE AN ACCURATE STATEMENT AND ONE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR AVOIDING ACTION WHICH COULD WEAKEN ONE PARTY'S POSITION.

8. COMMENT: WE HAD IMPRESSION THAT BRITISH HAVE ALREADY  
CONCLUDED THAT SECURITY COUNCIL PROPOSAL IS A NONSTARTER.  
AT THE SAME TIME, BRITISH EMBOFFS GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION  
THAT BRITISH RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WOULD, IN ANY  
EVENT, PROBABLY NOT BE LONG DELAYED. KISSINGER

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